

## YEAR END FINALE

This issue brings to a close my fifth and final year as Editor-in-Chief of *CRUX with MAYHEM*. It's hard to believe that my term is already up! However, it is the time to bid adieu, since I have just recently retired, and my wife and I wish to spend a lot of time travelling. I will remain involved for the first 6 months of 2008 as a Co-Editor, together with VÁCLAV LINEK of the University of Winnipeg. Then Václav will become the Editor-in-Chief. (See the article at the beginning of this issue.)

Now I want to thank the many individuals who contribute so much to *CRUX with MAYHEM*, without whose contributions the journal would certainly suffer. The first person to thank, as always, is BRUCE CROFOOT, my Associate Editor. Bruce, it has been a real honour and pleasure to have worked with you on *CRUX with MAYHEM*! I know that the product we have put forth would not have been as good without all your input. Bruce has decided that it is time to move on to other mathematical pursuits and to spend more quality time with his young family. I wish him well, and I know that his careful scrutiny of every page of every draft will be missed.

Secondly, I wish to thank all the members of the Editorial Board, current and former, with whom I have worked over the last 5 years: JEFF HOOPER, the Mayhem Editor, who oversees all the material in the Mayhem section of each issue; IAN VANDERBURGH, who has not only been the Assistant Mayhem Editor for the past year, but has been writing one of our regular Mayhem features, the Problem of the Month; ROBERT BILINSKI, the Skoliad Editor, who is continually on the prowl for interesting high school mathematics contests; ROBERT WOODROW, for organizing the Olympiad Corner (which he has been doing since 1987); JOHN GRANT McLOUGHLIN, for ensuring that *CRUX with MAYHEM* has book reviews that are appropriate to our readership and for collecting those reviews in a timely manner; and BRUCE GILLIGAN, for ensuring that we have quality articles that are appropriate for a problem-solving journal. We are also blessed with a group of Problems Editors (most of whom have been long-serving) who have been a real pleasure to work with: ILIYA BLUSKOV, CHRIS FISHER, MARIA TORRES, and EDWARD WANG, each of whom have primary interests in different fields of mathematics, and who together cover a broad spectrum of the discipline. I also want to thank Maria for her translations from Spanish, as well. Since I became Editor-in-Chief, my predecessor, BRUCE SHAWYER, has remained on the *CRUX with MAYHEM* Editorial Board. He has helped considerably with problem moderation and has been an incredible mentor for me. I also want to thank GRAHAM WRIGHT, our Managing Editor, who keeps me meeting (almost) my deadlines for each issue. He has helped me to understand better the inner workings of the Canadian Mathematical Society and where *CRUX with MAYHEM* fits into that picture.

There many others who are not members of the Editorial Board, whose time and efforts are really appreciated. I want to thank MONIKA KHBEIS and ERIC ROBERT, with whom I have working closely in their roles of Mayhem problem moderators. Their work has always been well done and on time. The task of providing us with timely translations of our Problems has rested on the shoulders of JEAN-MARC TERRIER and MARTIN GOLDSTEIN. Martin has now retired and all the work is now done by Jean-Marc. I want to thank them for their efforts, and for always coming through even when I have given them very little time for turn-around. The translations are so good that we often reword the English problem after they have translated it into French, as their translation often improves the wording of the original problem. That kind of attention to detail is more than I have a right to ask for, and I am most grate-

ful. I want to thank all the proofreaders. MOHAMMED AASSILA and BILL SANDS have been assisting the editors with this task. The quality of the work of all these people is a vital part of what makes *CRUX with MAYHEM* what it is. Thank you, one and all.

Thanks also go to Thompson Rivers University and my colleagues in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their continued understanding and support. Special thanks go to SUSAN HOWIE, secretary to our department, for all that she does to give me more time to edit. I can honestly say that I feel quite privileged to have worked for all these years among a group of individuals who truly define the word “colleague”. Also, the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  expertise of JOANNE CANAPE at the University of Calgary and TAO GONG at Wilfrid Laurier University is much appreciated.

Thanks to the University of Toronto Press and to Thistle Printing, and TAMI EHRLICH in particular, who continue to print a high-quality product.

The online version of *CRUX with MAYHEM* continues to grow, thanks in large part to JUDI BORWEIN at Dalhousie University.

Last but not least, I send my thanks to you, the readers. Without you, *CRUX with MAYHEM* would not be possible. I also want to tell you how much I have appreciated working with such an esteemed audience as we have for *CRUX with MAYHEM*. I have enjoyed the relationship that we have established on both a professional level and (with many of you) on a personal level. I hope to be able to maintain the friendships established through *CRUX with MAYHEM* and carry them into my retired life.

Once again, I would like to remind you that, when submitting problem proposals or solutions to problems, your name and address should be on EVERY solution or proposal, and that each solution and proposal should start on a fresh sheet of paper. Otherwise, there may be filing errors, resulting in a submitted solution or proposal being lost or not being properly credited.

I wish everyone the compliments of the season and a very happy, peaceful, and prosperous 2008.

Jim Totten

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